ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-229 PROJECT INFORMATION **Project Title**: Anderson Canyon #2 Trick Tank Rebuild Region and Game Management Unit: Region II; GMU 5B North **Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC)**: Was the project presented to the LHPC? • Williams/Flagstaff YES[X] NO Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[] NO[X] If Yes, was it funded? YES[] $NO[] \rightarrow$ Funded HPC Project #(s): Project Type: Water Catchment Rebuild **Brief Project Summary:** Improve the water collection, storage capabilities, and lifespan of the Anderson Canyon #2 Wildlife Catchment in northern 5B. This project will involve redeveloping the existing dilapidated catchment with new materials. New r-panel type roofing panels will replace the current metal sheeting at the site. These panels will be fastened to a new metal frame. Four 2500 gallon polyethylene storage tanks will replace the existing concrete tank, and a new 4' polyethylene walk in style trough will replace the existing drinker. A metal piperail fence will replace the existing broken barbed wire fence. The redevelopment of this water is necessary to meet AZGFD statewide strategic goals and water development implementation plans all the while mitigating habitat stress occurring near areas of other reliable water sources. Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit (% benefit per species): Elk, mule deer, pronghorn and mountain lion Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): **Environmental Compliance**: NEPA Completed: Yes[X] No[] N/A[] Projected Completion Date: 6/19/2014 Project Start Date: July 2016 (If Funded) State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: (Provide Attachment) Yes[X] No[] N/A[]Project End Date: July 2018 (If Funded) Projected Completion Date: 8/29/2012 Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[] To be Completed by: Luke Apfel and Joe Currie **Projected Completion Date:** PROJECT FUNDING **Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:** \$ **Cost Share or Matching Funds:**

Total Project Costs:

\$32,501.10 (W/out Contractor Labor)

\$64,501.10 (With Contractor Labor)

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION					
Applicant (please print): Luke Apfel Telephone: 928-220-5717	Address: 3500 S. Lake Mary Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001	E-mail: LApfel@azgfd.gov Date: 9/1/15			
AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):					
Project has been coordinated with: Joe Currie, Steve Rosenstock					

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Anderson Canyon (642) #2 wildlife catchment is located in the lower elevation of GMU 5B below Anderson Mesa between Elliott and Anderson Canyons in 5B north. The current wildlife catchment is a concrete vault style, with limited storage capacity. The apron is nonfunctional and poorly secured to the ground via metal rods that stretch across the apron. The concrete vault is starting to deteriorate as it was constructed 52 years ago. The existing barbed wire fence surrounding the apron and catchment require a lot of work and needs to be replaced with heavy duty pipe railing fence.

The existing state of this catchment does not allow for any wildlife use as it does not collect and hold water. This is unfortunate as the catchment is in a great location that has many elk, mule deer, pronghorn and mountain lion.



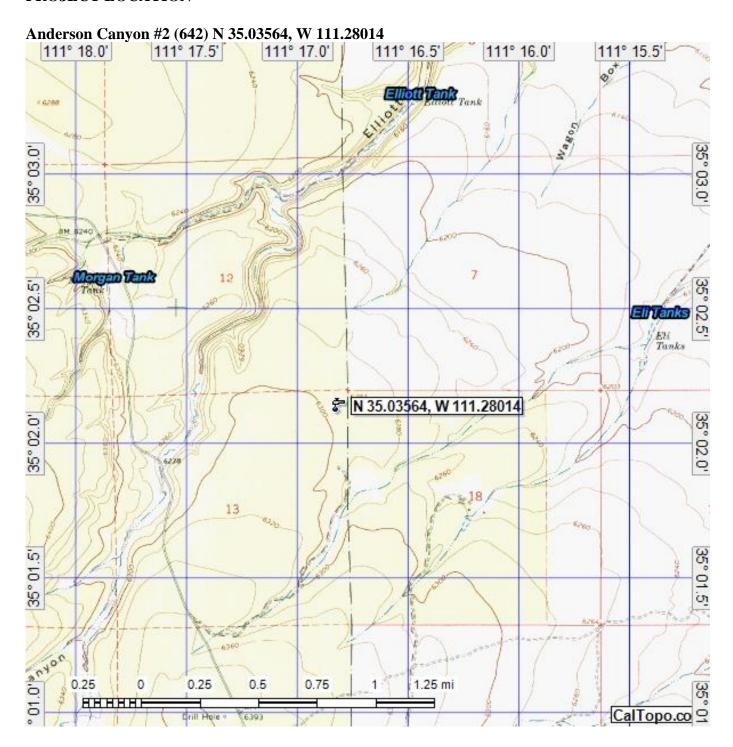
PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- 1. Improve water availability and distribution for wildlife, in particular elk, mule deer and pronghorn.
- 2. Improve habitat use and distribution of wildlife species by providing an additional reliable water source in the area.
- 3. Decrease maintenance needs by increasing capacity, and removing mechanical components from the system.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

- 1. Install a 4 polyethylene water tanks with the total capacity of approximately 10000 gallons.
- 2. Construct a 24' x 72' r-panel metal apron over tank, attached to metal framework.
- 3. Install a 4' polyethylene walk in trough to replace the existing ground level drinker.
- 4. Replace existing plumbing components.
- **5.** Replace barbed wire fence with 200'X250'X250'X250' heavy duty pipe-rail fence.

PROJECT LOCATION



LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(If the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

• 100% Federally managed by the Flagstaff Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT? YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

Plant community representative of Pinyon Juniper woodland. Vegetative species include Utah juniper cliffrose, algerita, and various grass species.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

ESTIMATED PROJECT COST SHEET

2015-Anderson Canyon #2 (642) WLC Redevelopment

Cost Category-	Grant Dollars Requested- Special
Equipment, Labor,	Tag
Administrative, Material	
·	
24X72' r-panel apron package-	\$6,113.00
Includes r-panel roofing, metal	
studs, gutter and associated	
hardware (concrete, support steel,	
ect)	
4 polyethylene water storage	\$13,944.00 (3,486.00 Each)
tanks. 2500 gallons each.	
4' polyethylene Walk-in trough	\$4,690.00
Plumbing Materials	\$1,500.00
200'X250'X250'X250' Heavy duty	\$4,303.50
pipe rail fence	
Elk Exclosure for Apron	\$1,645.60
(30'X80')	
Trail camera- including camera,	\$305.00
locks, safe box, SD card, tree	
mount, batteries, tax and S&H.	
Contractor Labor (If Necessary)	\$32,000.00
Totals	\$32,501.10 (W/out Contractor Labor)
	\$64,501.10 (With Contractor Labor)

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

Elk Society, Arizona Deer Association

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[X] NO[] N/A[]

History has shown that during travel management planning of the land management agencies, roads that have historic use and provide access to wildlife facilities receive priority in remaining open to the public.

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

After completion of this project, the wildlife catchment will continue to be monitored by the district Wildlife Manager or designated volunteers. It is anticipated that this wildlife catchment will be inspected at least twice a year and maintenance will be completed to ensure this catchment provides a reliable water source year round.

A trail camera would be set up on the wildlife catchment year round which would allow the district wildlife manager to remotely monitor the different wildlife species using the water source, what time of year each species is using the water source along with the frequency of their visits. This information could be useful in monitoring wildlife distribution and usage during different times of the year for the various species that are in the area. The cameras will also be used to deter and possibly detect any vandalism that may occur to the catchment.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

This project will be maintained by the Arizona Game and Fish Department's development crew. As outlined in the project narrative, long term maintenance needs are expected to be minimal. All maintenance and access needs will be closely coordinated with the Flagstaff Ranger District USFS office.

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Luke Apfel- 5B Wildlife Manager

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below):

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (please use the worksheet below): N/A

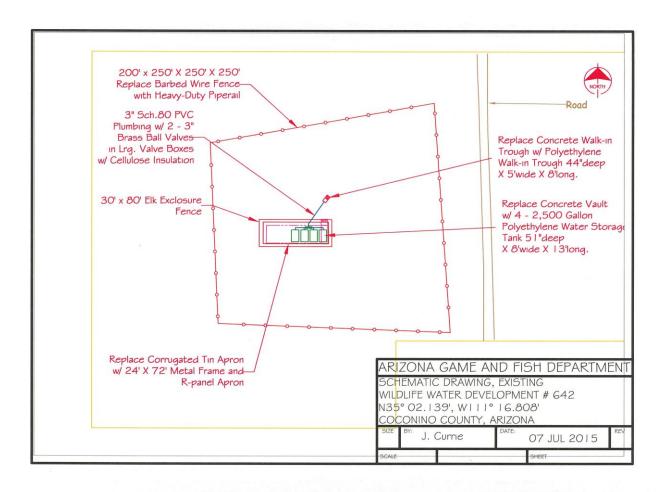
ATTACHMENTS:

(Please provide cultural clearance documentation from land management agency, e.g., FONSI, Inventory Standards, etc. Also attach any project pictures)

USDA FOREST SERVICE					EPORT NO.:2012-27A oconino National Forest
INVEN	TORY STA	NDARDS	AND ACC	COUNTING	
			M 2361)		
1. REPORT NUMBER:	2. REPORT	DATE:		3. ROUTING: C	opies to
YEAR FOREST NUMBER SERIES	MONTH	DAY	YEAR	<u>X</u> SHPO <u>X</u> D-:	**************************************
2012 04 27 A	8	29	2012	X ARCH:	
	0	has I	2012	Site Files:	
				GIS:	
4. AUTHOR(S): A. Peters, April		В.		GI	S Sites and Survey stored at:
		les .			
5. PROJ An Archaeological Survey and Cul Repair and Installation	ECT NAME/I tural Resourc	REPORT TI e Clearance	TLE (Abbrev Report for th	iate if necessary): ne Game and Fish \	Vater Catchments
6. ABSTRACT/SUMMARY of repor	rt and finding	S:			
The Arizona Department of	Game and F	ish propos	es to repair	eight existing wa	ter catchments and
install an additional two water catch	ments on th	e Coconine	National F	orest with the int	ention to use existing
roads for access. Forest Service arch	naeologists A	April Peters	and Levi S	tine curveyed the	existing autobmenta
and the area of the proposed catchm	ents to ident	ify cultura	l resources	The project is lo	ented in dispersed
locations around the Coconino Natio	onal Forest	Archaeolo	rists survey	and 26 acres and f	ound no navy sites
isolated occurences and no historic	properties T	here ween	o previous	cu 20 acres anu i	ound no new sites, no
catchment locations so all of the sur	vev is new o	urvey Thi	o previous s	survey done on a	ny of the water
eatenment rocations so an or me sur	vey is new s	urvey. Till	s project res	uits in No Effect	to historic properties.
9					
				Contin	ued on Page
7. CONSULTATION/CLEARANCE					ucu on rage
A. CONDITIONS OF CLEARANCE: X	NONE (No	poten. eligib	e sites in proje	ct area)	1
AVOID sites specified belowREPORT new sites to Forest Archae	MO	NITOR sites	pecified below	(during all timber re	
B. ADDITIONAL FIELD WORK REQUIRE	ED: EV	LUATE SIT	DITIONAL C		OTHER:
(LOWIE SIL	ES SI ECHTE	DELOW; Contil	nued:> ->
			1	1 -1	
C. REPORT ACCEPTED: D. CLEAN	RANCE RECO	MMENDED:		1	
X YES NOX Y	ES N	D N/A	07	Allem XF	WHY 9/20/12
			FOR	EST ARCHAEOLOG	SIST DATE
E FEFEOT ON OUT THE PROCESS	Andrews and the Print of the Party of the Pa		V	V V	
E. EFFECT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES X No Effect No Adverse		NI/A	D C:!1		
	Auverse	IN/A	Beneficial	2	
F. TRANSMITTAL TO SHPO: Consultation	on for:		-+2	NA	
Effect Eligibility Infe	o Only		-TIM	e Tita main	m JCp+21 2012
X N/A, as per SHPO letter of Dec.	23, 2003		FORE	ST SUPERVISOR	DATE
C SUDO CONCUEDENCE	v ma			V	
G. SHPO CONCURRENCE: Comments: (Additional comments:)	YES	YES, per co	mment below	NO	
Comments. (Additional comm	ments attached)			-
X Case by case concurrence not re	enuired as nor				
Programmatic Agreement and/or			2003 SHP	0	DATE
WIAM, VA	5 101101	we are we seed y h	JIIC COO	U	DATE
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. CLEARANCE APPROVED: X YES	NO		ach. 1	-1 7/ 16 , 1 :	no Chatanas
			407000	1 Millart	11/14/100,001x
revious edition is obsolete (rev: May 3, 199	0)	(OVED)	FORE	ST SUPERVISOR	/DATE
10 10 00 cartion to coolete (1ev. May 5, 199	7)	(OVER)		C F	3-FS-2300-4a (Interim)

	8. RANGER DISTRICT: 2,3,5,7	23. PROJECT LOCATION: (Optional)
	9. PROJECT FUNCTION: 26	T. N. R. E. Sec. T. N R. E Sec.
	10. PRIMARY ACTIVITY TYPE: G	T. N R. E Sec. T. N R. E Sec.
	11. SECONDARY ACTIVITY TYPE:	24. INSTITUTION CONDUCT. PROJ./SURVEY:
	12. PROGRAMING: U	- Name of institution Coconino National Forest
	13. TOTAL PROJECT ACREAGE:26 (Round to nearest 1/10th Acre)	25. AVERAGE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS USED: 2
	14. ACREAGE NEWLY SURVEYED: 26 15. SAMPLE %	26. AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL/ TRANSECT SPACING: (Feet) 32
	16. ACREAGE RESURVEYED:	(Round to nearest whole hour)
-	ACREAGE PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED 0	27. FIELD HOURS: 48
]	7. TOTAL NO. SITES 18. NEW	28. LAB HOURS:
1	IN PROJECT AREA <u>0</u> SITES <u>0</u> 9. SITES EVAL. 20. SITES EVAL.	29. TRAVEL HOURS: 4
	ELIG.: 0 NOT ELIG.: 0	30 ADMIN. HOURS: (RD: 8 SO: 2)
~	(By Professional CRM Specialist. Request Formal SHPO Concurrence)	31. MILEAGE:
2	1. SITES INSPECTED, MONITORED, ENHANCED, ETC.: 0	32. PER DIEM RATE:
S	(Projects other than survey, evaluation) Site No's:	33. DAYS OF PER DIEM:
2:	2. RECOMMENDED DETERMINATION	34. COST WEIGHT FACTOR:
	OF EFFECT:1 Initial: () By USFS Professional CRM Specialist)	35. COST (CODE):
	1. No Effect / No potential to Effect 2. No Adverse Effect	36. ACTUAL COST \$ <u>\$1,011</u>
	3. Adverse Effect 4. Not Applicable: Not an Undertaking 5. Beneficial Effect	Cost/Acre \$ <u>41.42</u>
	6. Not Applicable: No CulturalResources Present	Value of Volunteer Work: \$ (Figured at \$_/hr x _ hrs)

37. REMARKS/CONTINUATION: Continued from Section 6: ABSTRACT/SUMMARY of report findings:



NEPA Decision Memo



Forest Service Flagstaff Ranger District 5075 North Highway 89 Flagstaff, AZ 86004-2852 Phone (928) 526-0866 FAX (928) 527-8288

DECISION MEMO

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT (AZGFD) WATER CATCHMENT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

U.S. FOREST SERVICE COCONINO NATIONAL FOREST COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this project is to support and enhance wildlife populations by restoring a consistent water source for them. There is a need for the Coconino National Forest to rebuild 8 existing water catchments that are not currently functional and are unable to hold water in their current condition. The Coconino National Forest has been working in coordination with the AZGFD to identify areas that lack consistent water sources for wildlife and have potential infrastructure that can be reconstructed to meet the project purpose. Currently the AZGFD hauls water multiple times a year to these tanks to prevent them from going dry, therefore this project will not only improve the consistency of water for wildlife, it will reduce costs for wildlife managers. The Forest has prepared the environmental analysis for the project, and the AZGFD will manage the renovations of the catchments.

Five of the tanks are located north of the San Francisco Peaks between Red Mountain on the west and the forest boundary east of O'Leary Peak. The remaining 3 are located on the eastern boundary of the Forest, south of I-40 near Elliot Canyon and between Twin Arrows and Townsend/Winona exits.

Past research by the Arizona Game and Fish Department has indicated that dependable water sources are needed in key areas every 2-2.5 miles for both game and non-game species in Arizona. Notable species that will utilize these waters include elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and numerous small mammals and migratory birds. Other consistent waters from these proposed locations range in distance from 3.5 miles to 1.5 miles away. The AZGFD is planning to complete renovations of these water catchments including all or some of the following: removal or repair of the existing structures and replacement with new storage tanks, installation and repair of water collection aprons, and fencing of the immediate areas to protect them from trampling.

DECISION

I have decided to approve the AZGFD Water Catchment Reconstruction Project that authorizes the renovations of eight water catchments because it will improve the consistency of water availability for wildlife and reduce costs for wildlife managers. This action is categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). The applicable category of actions is identified in agency procedures as "wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction" [36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)]. This category of action(s) is applicable because the project will restore consistent water sources for wildlife, thus improving their habitat.



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service Flagstaff Ranger District 5075 North Highway 89 Flagstaff, AZ 86004-2852 Phone (928) 526-0866 FAX (928) 527-8288

This decision also includes the issuance of a special use permit that would authorize reconstruction, operation, road access, and maintenance for each of the catchments as needed. The Coconino National Forest "agrees... to coordinate development and issuance of free special-use permits for the construction and maintenance of structures needed to facilitate fish and wildlife management activities of the [AZGF] Department within the National Forests; provided such structures and intended uses conform in character and location with law, regulation and policy... The [AZGF] Department agrees... [to] build or maintain new and existing structures permitted for wildlife management in a manner that minimizes the visual impacts on the landscape" (USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region & Arizona Game & Fish Commission and Department. 2010. Master Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southwestern Region and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department).

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that will preclude use of the category 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6) or warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- The degree of effect to Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species is not a concern because there will be no effect to those species.
- No flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds are present or there is no uncertainty that the
 degree of effect is not significant.
- No congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation
 areas are present, and there is no uncertainty that the degree of effect is not significant.
- No inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas are present and there is no uncertainty that
 the degree of effect is not significant.
- No research natural areas are present and there is no uncertainty that the degree of effect is not significant.
- No American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites are present or there is no
 uncertainty that the degree of effect is not significant. A cultural resource survey and State Historic
 Preservation Office concurrence. Tribal consultation was conducted. All existing and proposed
 catchments were surveyed for cultural resource sites in July of 2012. No sites were identified within
 or adjacent to the project locations.
- No archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas are present or there is no uncertainty that the
 degree of effect is not significant. A cultural resource survey and State Historic Preservation Office
 concurrence was completed. Tribal consultation was conducted.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (APPEAL) OPPORTUNITIES

This action was originally listed as a proposal on the Coconino National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions and updated periodically during the analysis. Information about the proposed action was disseminated through mailings on 29 January 2014 and a legal notice was published in the Arizona Daily Sun on 15 February 2014. The following organizations expressed interest in the proposed action: Hopi Tribe, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, Arizona Elk Society, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Rummel Construction, Inc.

The Forest initiated notice, comment, and appeal procedures as required under 36 CFR 215, but statutes within the Consolidated Appropriations Act and Farm Bill of 2014 changed this legislation to be



United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Flagstaff Ranger District

5075 North Highway 89 Flagstaff, AZ 86004-2852 Phone (928) 526-0866 FAX (928) 527-8288

no longer applicable to categorically excluded projects effective 5 March 2014. Those organizations listed in the public involvement section above that provided comment or expressed interest in this proposal during the comment period were notified of the change in these procedures through mailings and their comments were accepted and considered.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This decision is consistent with the Coconino National Forest Plan. The project was designed in conformance with land management plan direction relevant to project activities. The project was also found to be consistent with the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Act, and other applicable state and Federal wildlife laws and regulations. The analysis determined that there would be no effect to listed species or their habitats. The Forest Service made a determination that this proposal falls within a category of actions listed in regulations at 36 CFR 220.6, that are excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and that there are no extraordinary circumstances that will preclude use of the category 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6) which specifically covers "wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction."

IMPLEMENTATION & CONTACT

Implementation could begin immediately following the release of this decision memo and would be completed before the end of the year 2024. For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Cary Thompson, Wildlife Biologist, Flagstaff Ranger District, 5075 North Highway 89, Flagstaff AZ 86004, 928-527-8237, clthompson@fs.fed.us, or Larry Phoenix, Arizona Game and Fish Department, at lphoenix@azgfd.gov.

Jennifer Hensiek

Deputy District Ranger Flagstaff Ranger District Date

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ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Anderson Canyon #2 (642) Water Catchment Redevelopment

1)	Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent "Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?"
	Yes, this project is a regional and local priority for redevelopment.
2)	Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project. Joe Currie- 7/13/2015
3)	What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one) []2-4 []4-6 []6-8 []8-10 []10-12 [X]12-14 []14-16 []>16
4)	Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?
	YES[X] (please complete #5 below) NO[] (skip #5 below)
5)	For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:
	Name of water source: Anderson Canyon #1 (641) WLC
	Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Catchment
	Ownership of water source: AZGFD
	Distance in miles from project: 3.0
6)	Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? YES[] NO[X]
7)	Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner. None
8)	Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site: Type of access (mark one): [X]2x4 vehicles []4x4 only []foot only**
	**If foot access only: Distance in miles: Approximate hiking time:
	Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES[] NO[X]
	Please describe any restrictions to public access: None

9) Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the <u>material type and dimensions</u> of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.

24X72' r-panel apron package
and steel frame
4 Polyethylene water storage
tanks. 2500 gallons each.
4' Polyethylene walk-in trough
Plumbing Materials
200' X 250' X 250'X 250' Pipe
rail fence
Elk Exclosure for Apron
(30'X100')

10) Was a site visit completed? Yes[] No[X]

If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.

A formal site visit with the Elk Society, Arizona Deer Association and development branch is pending, however development branch has been consulted with on this project and the Wildlife Manager for GMU 5B has visited the site.